

## **EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING: December 9, 2009**

**East Windsor Town Hall**

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Nelson. Commissioners Sinsigallo, Sauerhoefer, Sherman and Stremper were present as well as Chief of Police Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Roger Hart.

Chairman Nelson welcomed newly elected commissioner, Tom Stremper to the Police Commission.

### **2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:**

On behalf of the East Windsor Police Commission, Commissioner Sinsigallo presented a plaque to Lorry Devanney as a thank you for her years of service on the Police Commission. Ms. Devanney thanked the Commissioners, Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for their guidance and support through the years.

### **3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

The minutes from October 14, 2009 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sinsigallo to accept the regular meeting minutes of 10/14/09, as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

**VOTE IN FAVOR:** Sinsigallo/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL VOTING IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

### **4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:**

**A) Police Department – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sinsigallo to accept the monthly billings, dated November 6, 2009 and December 2, 2009 in the total amount of \$ 13,021.05. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

**VOTE IN FAVOR:** Sinsigallo/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**B) Police Department – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sinsigallo to accept the monthly financial statements (11/6/09 and 12/2/09), as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Sinsigallo/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sinsigallo to accept the monthly billing, dated November 30, 2009, in the amount of \$ 125.00. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Sinsigallo/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**D) Police Commission – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sinsigallo to accept monthly financial statement, as presented (11/30/09). **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Sinsigallo/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. PUBLIC INPUT #1 – Comments and Discussion (5 minute maximum per subject):**

A) Dale Nelson, former Selectwoman, expressed her thanks to the Police Commission for the experience of being the liaison between the Police Commission and Board of Selectman and previous to that, the Board of Finance.

B) Officer Jay Drolett introduced himself as the new President of the Police Union. Officer Drolett stated that Officer Jeff Reimer is the newly elected Vice President. He also announced that the department is presenting a fundraiser comedy show at the Clarion, this Friday night and welcomed everyone to come.

C) Resident, Joe Ouellette (42 Perri Lane), expressed concern about the traffic light at the middle school. Mr. Ouellette is currently a supervising engineer at the DOT, with experience with traffic signals and public safety. He has initiated contact with the State Traffic Commission and is urging the Police Commission to remove the signal. Mr. Ouellette explains that the signal does not serve the purpose that it was initially installed for – mass amounts of people/traffic. Mr. Ouellette further explained that, from his experience and background, he has observed the deterioration of the equipment. Mr. Ouellette explained that there could potentially be a liability with this deteriorating equipment. Mr. Ouellette further explained that in order to bring that signal up to code it would cost the town approximately \$50,000. He reiterated that there really is no need for that traffic light.

Mr. Ouellette added that in order to remove the traffic signal, there are steps that need to be taken. The town would need to ask the state to do a number of things: remove stop lines, install additional signs. Mr. Ouellette noted that there is no stop sign coming out of the Middle School and expressed his concern regarding liability of the town. From the records submitted to the state from the police department, there has been only one rear-end accident there in the last three years. In closing, Mr. Ouellette stated that some immediate steps need to be taken.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A) Letter dated 10/21/09 from Chief DeMarco to Mr. Wolfgang Kiss regarding speeding complaint.

**7. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

A) Middle School Traffic light - Superintendent Tim Howes and Resident Joe Ouellette presented information to the commission regarding the repair of the light versus removing the light. Mr. Howes and Mr. Ouellette explained that the cost to repair the light would be approximately \$13,500, but this would not bring it up to code. Both Mr. Howes and Mr. Ouellette commented that signage may be the route to go, as the light serves no use.

Commissioner Nelson asked if the Police Commission would be put under liability if something happened (if removal was voted down). Mr. Howes responded that the liability would fall on the town, regardless.

Commissioner Sherman asked if that is a state road. Chief DeMarco responded that the authority comes from the Police Commission (the licensed traffic authority). Chief DeMarco stated that he is familiar with the steps that would need to be taken, but the vote to start those steps needs to come from the Police Commission. The DOT would receive the request and authorize it. Commissioner Sherman asked if it would be a town expense to remove the signal. Mr. Howes and Mr. Ouellette stated that to remove the signal and put up signage the cost would be approximately \$5,000 to the town. They added that to fix the signal, up to code, would cost the town approximately \$50,000-75,000.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Sherman to have Chief DeMarco proceed with the complete procedure for the removal of the traffic light and the addition of any required signage at the middle school. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sinsigallo.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Sinsigallo/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **8. PUBLIC INPUT #2 – Comments only – NO DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Dale Nelson asked where the funds will come from for the above mentioned project.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS:**

A) Election of Chairman

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Sherman to elect Linda Sinsigallo as new Chairman of the Police Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ABSTAINED FROM VOTING:** Sinsigallo

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Stremper to elect Dick Sherman as new Vice-Chairman of the Police Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sinsigallo. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to elect Tom Stremper as new Secretary of the Police Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS:**

Enclosed in the commissioner's packets were the following:

1. Letter from Officer Drolett – letter was received by commissioners at the start of the meeting.
2. 10/7/09 Legal fee disbursements

3. 10/28/09 letter from Frances Keenan regarding Blind Driveway sign.
4. 11/2/09 letter of resignation from Luis A. Sanabria leaving EW Police Department's employment.
5. Copy of letter dated 10/21/09 from Chief DeMarco to Wolfgang Kiss regarding speeding complaint.
6. 11/8/09 letter from Jeff Reimer, President of Local 3583
7. Points of Interest – New Contract

## 11. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police – Submitted written report to commission.

Nothing to add at this time.

Commissioner Nelson asked if CIP items have been presented. Chief DeMarco stated that they have and that Commissioner Sauerhoefer was present at the CIP meeting.

Commissioner Sherman asked for an update on the administrative cars. Chief DeMarco reports that one is still at the dealer awaiting parts and the other car needs to go back for further work.

B) Commission Members - None at this time.

## 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Sherman to go into Executive Session (7:23pm) for Legal Update to include the Chief and Deputy Chief. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson.

**VOTE IN FAVOR:** Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Closed at 8:01pm

No action taken.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to go into Executive Session (8:01pm) for Grievances 09-03, 09-04, 09-05 to include the Chief and Deputy Chief. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman.

**VOTE IN FAVOR:** Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Closed at 8:15pm

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson that Grievances 09-03, 09-04 and 09-05 be denied. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman.

**VOTE IN FAVOR:** Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Nelson made a **MOTION** to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:16pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sauerhoefer.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Christine Pellegrini**

**EWPC Recording Secretary**